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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class, mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 2313-1450

Jennifer China

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December 9, 2003

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

EXAMINER: Jennifer Kolb Michener

QIU ET AL.

ART UNIT: 1762

APPLICATION NO: 09/911,218

FILED: JULY 23, 2001

FOR: PROCESS FOR SURFACE MODIFYING SUBSTRATES AND MODIFIED SUBSTRATES RESULTING THEREFROM

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of June 13, 2003 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on September 13, 2003. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$950 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

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950.00 DA

Respectfully submitted,

CIBA Vision Corporation Patent Department 11460 Johns Creek Parkway Duluth, GA 30097-1556

Date: December 9, 2003

Jian Zhou

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